

APPROVED: Meeting No. 12-92

ATTEST: *Sharon A. Gran*

MAYOR AND COUNCIL  
ROCKVILLE, MARYLAND  
Meeting No. 10-92

March 9, 1992

The Mayor and Council of Rockville, Maryland, convened in General Session in the Council Chamber, Rockville City Hall, 111 Maryland Avenue, Rockville, Maryland, on March 9, 1992, at 7:30 p.m.

PRESENT

Councilmember James F. Coyle (Mayor Pro Tem)

Councilmember Rose G. Krasnow

Councilmember James T. Marrinan

ABSENT

Mayor Douglas M. Duncan (Business Travel)

Councilmember David Robbins (Business Travel)

In attendance: City Manager Bruce Romer, City Clerk Sharon Gran and City Attorney Paul Glasgow.

Upon motion of Councilmember Krasnow, duly seconded and unanimously passed, Councilmember Coyle was designated as Mayor Pro Tem for the evening's meeting.

Re: City Manager's Report

1. The National League of Cities annual Congressional City Conference was held this past weekend in Washington, D.C. Two staff members attended special workshops on Saturday: Cheryl Lampkin attended the seminar on Americans with Disabilities Act and the City Manager reported that he had attended the seminar on Total Quality Management. On Sunday, Councilmember

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Coyle and the City Manager made a presentation to the Advisory Council of the National League of Cities on "Building a Family-Friendly Community."

Mayor Pro Tem Coyle commented that Rockville was honored to be asked to address the group and this would be discussed in more detail under New Business.

2. The FY93 budget is moving along on schedule. This week, the City Manager begins his review of the individual department budgets before final recommendations and delivery to the Mayor and Council at the meeting of April 13. Two public hearings will be held on the budget during the month of May.

3. The annual registration for the popular summer camp program will take place this coming Saturday. The process has been fine-tuned to ensure equitable treatment of all individuals, and the registration booth will be well staffed.

4. With respect to the situation at the intersection of Potomac Valley Road, Maryland Avenue and Falls Road and the continuous "no turn on red" prohibition, staff has put together a definitive statement and letter which has been sent to the State Highway Administration. The State Highway Administration has an informal policy prohibiting the use of partial "no turn on red" controls, and the City is asking that they reconsider this position.

The "no turn on red" is justified during portions of the day for the pedestrian traffic generated by Julius West Middle School. However, during off peak hours and weekends, right-turning motorists just watch an empty intersection. Councilmember Krasnow walked through the intersection to vote at Julius West last week and indicated there were a number of cars stopped blocking the pedestrian walkway.

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Re: Presentation by Girl Scout Service Unit #2 in Rockville. Senior Troop representative Leigh Mitchell will discuss the 80th birthday of girl scouting.

Leigh Mitchell of Senior Troop 741 introduced Elizabeth Reuter of Daisy Troop 760, Lauren Vause of Brownie Troop 1772, Heather Schlesinger of Junior Troop 2548 and Karen McElroy of Cadet Troop 2282. Miss Mitchell noted that the girl scouts are celebrating their 80th anniversary this month and that they strive to make communities better places in which to live and work. She stated that they will continue their service projects to illustrate their concern for the environment, and she asked Council, staff and the community for their support in purchasing girl scout cookies. The proceeds from the sale of girl scout cookies are used for educational activities and financing improvements to the girl scout camp.

The scouts passed out cookies to the Mayor Pro Tem and Council and audience. Mayor Pro Tem Coyle distributed Rockville flag pins to the scouts.

Re: Citizens Forum

At this time, the Mayor Pro Tem opened the meeting to hear from any citizen who wished to address the Mayor and Council.

There being no citizens wishing to be heard, the Mayor Pro Tem closed the Citizens Forum portion of the meeting.

Re: Appointments

Upon motion of Councilmember Marrinan, duly seconded and unanimously passed, Robert Ekman was reappointed to a two-year term on the Advisory Commission on Public Education.

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Upon motion of Councilmember Krasnow, duly seconded and unanimously passed, Dana L. Hesse was appointed to a three-year term as an alternate on the Sign Review Board.

Re: Approval of Minutes

Upon motion of Councilmember Krasnow, duly seconded, with Councilmember Coyle abstaining as he was not present at the meeting, the minutes of Meeting No. 08-92 (February 24, 1992) were approved, as written.

Upon motion of Councilmember Marrinan, duly seconded, with Councilmember Krasnow abstaining as she was not present at the meeting, the minutes of Meeting No. 09-92 (February 25, 1992) were approved, as written.

Re: Consent Agenda

Councilmember Marrinan requested the removal of Item A from the Consent Agenda, and Mayor Pro Tem Coyle requested the removal of Item C. Upon motion of Councilmember Marrinan, duly seconded and unanimously passed, the following Consent Agenda Items were approved:

- B. Award of Contract for the Laser Light Show, Hometown Holidays 1992, to Audio Visual Imagineering, Inc. of Springfield, Virginia for the low bid amount of \$25,200.

Sufficient funds are budgeted for this contract to provide a laser light show on Saturday, May 23, and Sunday, May 24.

- D. Introduction of Ordinance to amend Chapter 15, "Personnel" of the Rockville City Code, Section 15-171, entitled "Retirement benefits"

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so as to provide for a retirement plan for non-merit employees not participating in the Social Security Insurance System in connection with their services to the City.

Re: Award of Bid No. 85-92, Sports Lighting for Montrose and Welsh Parks, to Ryon, Inc. for the low bid amount of \$89,700.

The sports lighting project at Montrose and Welsh Parks involves the replacement of existing tennis and basketball court lighting and poles with current technology sports lighting system. Funds in the amount of \$90,000 are budgeted for this project.

Councilmember Marrinan had requested removal of this item (A) from the Consent Agenda in order to inquire as to how the two alternate proposals, replacement of existing paddle tennis court lighting and replacement of exiting practice court lighting, would be handled. Staff responded that these alternates were enhancements which could have been added to the bid award in the event more favorable pricing had been received.

Staff advised Councilmember Krasnow that the updated technology in lighting equates to longer lasting bulbs with increased illumination.

Upon motion of Councilmember Marrinan, duly seconded and unanimously passed, Bid No. 85-92 was awarded to Ryon, Inc. in the amount of \$89,700 for sports lighting at Montrose and Welsh Parks.

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Re: Introduction of Ordinance to repeal Division 2, Article III of Chapter 2 of the Rockville City Code entitled "Alternative Community Service Commission."

At a Mayor and Council/Alternative Community Service Commission worksession held on January 21, 1992, it was agreed that the ACSC would be disbanded due to a lack of case referrals.

Mayor Pro Tem Coyle had requested that this item (C) be removed from the Consent Agenda in order to recognize the Alternative Community Service Commission which has served the City well over the years. With the lack of case referrals, however, this commission is disbanding and members are exploring other ways in which to serve the Rockville community.

The Ordinance was duly introduced.

Re: Update on Shelter Care in Rockville.

Rev. Mansfield Kaseman, Executive Director of Community Ministries of Rockville, noted that the City contributes 10% of the Chase Partnership Shelter's budget, but they wouldn't be able to operate without the outstanding volunteer support and contributions from the community at large. The Chase Partnership Shelter continues to serve as a model.

Sam Zack, Director of the Chase Partnership Shelter, provided statistics as to the number of bed nights served. The shelter, which generally serves the more difficult populations, functions as the largest shelter in the County and provides a humane, safe and secure environment. A number of agencies such as the Mental Health Association, Health Care for the Homeless and the

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VA provide outreach efforts and case management; local churches bring in food for the men; and the Lions Club assists in building projects.

The cold weather refuge trailers served approximately 20 men and three to four women per night on their site.

Mr. Zack provided statistics in the following areas regarding the population served: employment and income status, medical insurance, education, physical disabilities, substance abuse, veteran status, residence prior to homelessness, etc.

The current system functions well as a shelter, but not as a treatment center. They are beginning to work with their sister organizations, residential providers and subsidiary providers, to reorganize the shelter system into a treatment system and emergency shelter.

A plan is being developed for the shelter to become a year-long program, to expand and allow for in-depth assessments and ongoing case management. Chase will get back to its original mission of meeting the significant needs of substance abusers and to provide job training and counseling. A 24-hour facility is contemplated specializing in providing treatment for the homeless with addiction problems. Finally, there will be a focus on subsidized housing in order to provide for affordable housing needs outside of the shelter.

They will work with the community and business sector in terms of jobs and job training and binding these individuals back into the community. It is hoped that the shelter's population will be drawn into the mainstream of the community. More funding will be required from the city, state and federal levels. It was noted that receiving funds now will be more beneficial in the long run in terms of reintegrating these individuals back into the community rather than having them continue in other programs.

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Councilmember Krasnow noted that she had met recently with Mr. Zack and Rev. Kaseman. The City is lucky to have such dedicated individuals working to solve the problems of the homeless.

Councilmember Marrinan thanked them for the excellent presentation. With the increased incidence of tuberculosis, a very vulnerable group is the homeless, especially those in shelters. He asked to what extent this has presented itself to the shelter. Mr. Zack responded that he is aware of the data on TB, which is especially severe in large-scale shelters. It is a grave concern, and the shelter does not intend to serve any persons who have a communicable disease.

In describing the shelter which was originally conceived as an emergency center but is now more permanent in nature, Mayor Pro Tem Coyle asked if they are receiving the levels of support in program areas critical to making individuals more independent. Mr. Zack responded that some services are available, some are not, and some are in danger because of anticipated budget cuts.

Discussion followed regarding the trend from public provision of critical services to the voluntary sector and the expectation of what government services should provide. It was noted that the private sector has limited resources, and they are dependent upon the goodwill of volunteers. Rev. Kaseman stated that they wish to broaden the base of their advisory board, and he feels the answer can be found in a more informed citizenry. If people understand the issues, they may be more willing to have an increase in their taxes.

Councilmember Krasnow asked if they expect a dramatic increase in their caseload inasmuch as there are a lot of people "living on the edge." Mr. Zack noted that although they operate now at full capacity, they are seeing more people who, until recently, had jobs and a place to live. The demands on the County as a whole will increase over time as people face living on the street.



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In response to Mayor Pro Tem Coyle, Rev. Kaseman commented that they are working closely with the City and County public and private agencies. They are closing their emergency assistance office to regroup because of new clients and overwhelming demands. They will reopen with new offices in Silver Spring which would not have been possible without the partnership they have formed with the County.

Mayor Pro Tem Coyle requested that the City be kept advised as to how it can continue to provide assistance.

Re: Approval of 1992 Fee  
Structure for Redgate Golf  
Course.

Staff noted that approval is requested to increase the non-resident daily fee and the passholder fee by six percent. These increased fees would be comparable with fees charged at other area courses. There would be no daily fee increase to residents.

The 1992 Redgate Golf Course fee proposal, which has been endorsed by the Recreation and Park Advisory Board and the Golf Course Advisory Committee, meets five goals: covers all operating expenses; contributes \$135,000 to the course's CIP fund; maintains parity with other public courses; continues Redgate's exceptional conditioning mission; and provides a fee reduction for Rockville residents.

Staff advised Councilmember Krasnow that current passholders may renew by April 1, and the remaining passes would be available on a first come, first served basis.

Mayor Pro Tem Coyle commented that this has been a very successful program without being an expense to the general taxpayer.

Upon motion of Councilmember Marrinan, duly seconded and unanimously passed, the

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recommended fee increases for the 1992 season at Redgate Golf Course were approved.

Re: Discussion and Instructions  
to Staff - Application to  
Close and Abandon Public  
Way SCA-64-91, JB &  
Company, Applicant.

This application requests the abandonment of Mason Drive, an industrial street located on the north side of Southlawn Lane, approximately 300 feet east of North Horners Lane. Staff advised the Mayor Pro Tem and Council that no opposition has been received to this abandonment, and it is recommended that staff prepare an ordinance in accordance with the recommendations of the Planning Commission. It was noted by Mayor Pro Tem Coyle that this abandonment is supported by family members associated with the cemetery accessed by this public way. Councilmember Krasnow was advised by the City Attorney that the abandonment would not be recorded until such time as the easement for access to the cemetery is presented in proper form.

Upon motion of Councilmember Marrinan, duly seconded and unanimously passed, staff was instructed to prepare the necessary documentation for approval of this abandonment in accordance with the recommendations of the Planning Commission.

Re: Discussion and Instructions  
to Staff - Application to  
Close and Abandon Public  
Way SCA-65-91, Lanny  
Newman, Applicant.

This application requests the abandonment of unimproved segments of right-of-way of Luckett Street and Dawson Avenue located north of Beall Elementary School and south of Welsh Park.

Upon motion of Councilmember Marrinan, duly seconded and unanimously passed, staff was instructed to prepare the necessary documentation for approval of this abandonment as

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recommended by the Planning Commission.

Re: FYI/Correspondence

Commendation Letters

Councilmember Krasnow noted the impressive group of letters complimenting City staff members.

Rockville Civic Ballet

Councilmember Marrinan referenced the ballet's spring production performances to be held on April 4 and 5 at the F. Scott Fitzgerald Theatre. He encouraged the TV audience to attend as these are excellent productions.

Re: New Business

Councilmember Krasnow expressed concern with the County Executive's proposal to close the Twinbrook Library and asked what steps can be taken to prevent this from occurring. The City Manager responded that the City has no involvement in the delivery of library services. The most effective approach to dealing with this issue is to get grassroots involvement. Representatives of the Twinbrook Citizens Association are putting together a series of strategic planning meetings and are gathering their own data for transmittal to the County Council. City staff will be ready to assist in any way with available information or data.

Councilmember Marrinan referenced another County proposal to change the level of service at the Rockville library to a more limited reference library. If both of these proposals were successful, Rockville citizens would not have access to a general all-purpose library.

The City Manager advised Councilmember Krasnow that staff will develop some information regarding the Council's budget schedule and deliberations on the library issue.

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Councilmember Marrinan noted the removal of the utility poles on W. Montgomery Avenue and the residual holes. Staff will provide information as to when the holes will be repaired.

As to when the lights will be operational on Wootton Parkway, Councilmember Krasnow was advised that it will be some time late this month.

Mayor Pro Tem Coyle referenced the National League of Cities (NLC) Congressional City Conference held this past weekend. The City was requested to suggest policy development topics, and the following were submitted to the Finance, Administration and Intergovernmental Relations Committee of which he is a member:

1. The impact on local governments of telecommunications technologies, the move to fiber optics, and the issue of allowing telephone companies to enter the cable market.
2. Coordination and clarification of state and federal wetlands, clean water and stormwater management plans and priorities.

The City was asked to prepare a paper on the issue of "family friendly communities" and Councilmember Coyle and City Manager Bruce Romer presented this paper to the NLC Advisory Council. Rockville was the only community asked to make such a presentation which focused on the importance of community to life in Rockville and the fact that neighborhoods are really the starting point for everything else in the City.

Councilmember Marrinan also attended the NLC Conference and referenced issues brought before the Human Development Committee. Across the country, there is a growing concern of cities meeting the needs of their citizens. There is a major problem on a national level of violent crime and the use of handguns although this issue is being addressed in the metropolitan Washington area on a regional basis. Another issue of grave concern is health care services and delivery and the fact that there are many individuals who are partially uninsured or have limited or no access to health

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care. The National League of Cities is working on bringing these issues to the attention of Congress and other elected officials.

Mayor Pro Tem Coyle commended staff on the excellent paper concerning state mandates.

As to the question of forming a compensation commission, it was agreed that this issue would be brought back as an agenda item for a future Mayor and Council meeting.

Re: Next Meeting

A public hearing is scheduled for March 16, regarding the request to allow the retail sale of bicycles in the C-1, local commercial, zone. At the General Session of March 23, the issue of additional parking in Courthouse Square and approval of a new arrangement for continued lease of the Beall-Dawson House will be discussed.

Re: Adjournment

There being no further business to come before the Mayor Pro Tem and Council, the meeting was adjourned at 9:05 p.m., to convene again in Public Hearing at 7:30 p.m. on March 16, 1992, or at the call of the Mayor.